

THE POMP BEHIND THE CIRCUMSTANCE: ACADEMIC REGALIA

The Gown

The history of the academic gown goes back to the 12th century. During this period everyone, both men and women – royalty, lay folk, clerics, tradesmen, students – wore long flowing robes. The apparel varied in elegance according to the rank and wealth of the owner, from simple rough worsteds to rich gold brocades wrought with tassels and

The Mace

The University Mace serves as a symbol of authority, just as it did in the Middle Ages when a mace bearer accompanied an official taking office or opening court. From the 16th century in England and since colonial days in America, it has become a symbol of office used in ceremonies and is carried by the procession leader or mace bearer.

Academic Honors

Undergraduate students graduating with academic honors will be recognized for their academic excellence by cords of different colors draped around the necks. *Summa cum laude* (gold), *magna cum laude* (blue), *cum laude* (silver).

College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Honors Program

The CAS Honors Program provides high-performing students with first-hand exposure to scholarship and research. Students apply to the program and then complete and publicly defend a research-based honors thesis. They will be recognized by a solid red cord.

Military Service Honors

The University is proud to recognize students serving or having served in the various military branches of the United States of America. Graduating students currently serving in the U.S. military and veterans will be recognized by red, white and blue cords.

Academic Honor Societies

Alpha Chi (National Honor Society), white stole with blue and green Greek letters
Chi Alpha Sigma (National College Athlete Honor Society), black/gold cord with tassels
Delta Omega (Public Health), peach and black stole with Greek letters
Omicron Kappa Upsilon (Dental Medicine), Blue/gold cord with tassels
Phi Alpha (Social Work), blue/gold cord with double knot
Phi Alpha Theta (History), red/blue cord with mixed tassels
Pi Alpha (Physician Assistant), blue/green cord with tassels
Pi Theta Epsilon (Occupational Therapy), gold/blue cords
Psi Chi (Psychology), insignia pin, platinum/dark blue cord with mixed tassels
Rho Chi (Pharmacy), purple/white cord with tassels
Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing), purple cord with tassels
Sigma Phi Alpha (Dental Hygiene), white stole with purple braid edging and gold insignia